

As you know, the state recently began implementing policy changes regarding billing for STI services. Please read below for information on how TB cases will be impacted by these changes.

Effective July 1, 2017:

(1) **The Office of Epidemiology will cover the cost of HIV tests and HgbA1c tests done on TB cases, TB suspect cases, and on individuals with confirmed LTBI.*** You must use the Labcorp/Office of Epidemiology Account requisition form (and **NOT** the General Account form) to order these two tests without cost to your district. For purposes of limiting administrative burden and facilitating efficient clinic flow at the health department, HgbA1c is included on the OEPI form rather than on an additional requisition.

(2) TB Control will continue to cover the cost of serum drug level assays that are pre-authorized by one of our TB nurse consultants.

(3) In the past, TB Control would occasionally receive Labcorp invoices (forwarded from districts) for TB-related laboratory tests, such as LFT's, or CBC's. **We have helped districts cover some of these expenses in the past when possible but will no longer be able to do so.**

Have questions about this information? Please call our office at 804.864.7906.

* Clients with signs or symptoms of active TB disease (TB Classification 5) may receive their initial evaluation free of charge; this also applies to contacts of individuals with known active tuberculosis. TB patients who have health insurance will be encouraged to use their coverage to pay for the cost of laboratory services as long as they are not affected by deductibles or co-pays. After diagnosis, TB clients must provide income information and are charged based on eligibility guidelines; the district may bill an insurer if one exists. However, patients with suspected or confirmed tuberculosis or TB infection shall not be denied treatment for non-payment.